

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 9-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4-6, 14, and 20 are amended and Claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 4, 14, 17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yanagisawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,389,475, herein "Yanagisawa"); Claims 2, 5-7, 15, 16, 18, and 19 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 9-13 were allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 4-6 are amended to depend from independent Claim 1 instead of Claim 3. No new matter is believed to be added.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 14, 17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yanagisawa. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 is amended to recite features of Claim 3 (which is now cancelled). No new matter is believed to be added.

Briefly recapitulating, independent Claim 1 is directed to a recording medium that includes a substrate, a recording layer, at least one electrically insulating region, and a photoconductive layer. The recording layer overlies the substrate and includes a plurality of charge accumulating regions each containing a first material capable of accumulating an electric charge. The at least one electrically insulating region electrically insulates the plurality of charge accumulating regions from each other. The photoconductive layer is formed on the recording layer and on the plurality of charge accumulating regions and has a photoconductive region including a second material that has a conductivity that is increased

by light absorption. Independent Claims 14 and 20 are amended to recite similar features as independent Claim 1.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 1 shows the substrate 11, the recording layer 16 having the plurality of charge accumulating regions 14, the at least one electrically insulating region 15, and the photoconductive layer 17.

Turning to the applied art, Yanagisawa shows in Figure 1D a recording medium 1 having a substrate 101, a substrate electrode 102, a first recording layer 103 having tracks 104 of different electroconductivity than the first recording layer 103, and a second recording layer 105. However, Yanagisawa does not teach or suggest that either the first recording layer 103 or the tracks 104 are electrically insulating regions as recited in Claim 1. On the contrary, both the first recording layer 103 and the tracks 104 of Yanagisawa are electric conductors as disclosed at column 20, line 43, to column 21, line 29, and as shown in Figure 3 of Yanagisawa.

Further, Yanagisawa discloses at column 4, lines 24-33, that both the first recording layer 103 and the second recording layer 105 have an “electric memory effect.” Furthermore, Yanagisawa discloses at column 5, lines 22-30, that the “electric memory effect” is produced by “materials causing a memory-switching phenomenon in current-voltage characteristics.” In addition, Yanagisawa shows in Figure 1D tracks 104 formed in the first recording layer 103 and having a different electroconductivity than the first recording layer 103. The tracks 104 are formed by application of a voltage between a probe electrode 201 and the substrate electrode 102 (see Figure 1C).¹

According to the electric memory effect in Yanagisawa, portions of the recording layer change their electroconductivity after an electrical current passes through those portions

¹ Yanagisawa, column 4, lines 20-33.

and those portions maintain the new electroconductivity.² However, the Office Action has not asserted that the change in electroconductivity of the recording layer in Yanagisawa is due to charge accumulation, and the change may instead be based on some other property (e.g., charge redistribution). Thus, the Office Action has not established a *prima facie* case that Yanagisawa teaches the claimed recording medium having a first material that accumulates electric charges, as claimed in Claim 1.

Further, the recording medium 1 shown in Figures 1D and 2 of Yanagisawa does not include a photoconductive layer having a second material that has a conductivity that is increased by light absorption, as recited in Claim 1.

Alternatively, Yanagisawa shows in Figure 10 a recording medium having a substrate 111, a substrate electrode 112, a recording layer 113, and a photoconductive layer 114 including a plurality of portions spaced apart from each other. Yanagisawa discloses that the recording layer 113 has the electric memory effect of the recording layer 103 of Figure 1D, discussed above.³ Thus, the recording medium shown in Figure 10 of Yanagisawa suffers from the defects identified with regard to the recording medium 103 of Figure 1D of Yanagisawa. In addition, the recording medium shown in Figure 10 of Yanagisawa does not include at least one electrically insulating region that electrically insulates a plurality of charge accumulating regions from each other, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 14, and 20 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Yanagisawa.

² Id., column 4, lines 43-48.

³ Id., column 18, lines 20-33.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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